NEW RECORD FOR *PHYLLOPHAGA* (COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE) IN NORTH DAKOTA[1,2]

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ABSTRACT: The range of *Phyllophaga crassissima* is extended northward and to include North Dakota.

Lago *et al.* (1979) conducted an extensive survey of phytophagous Scarabaeidae of North Dakota in which they recorded nine species of *Phyllophaga* from the state: *P. anxia* (LeConte), *P. drakei* (Kirby), *P. fusca* (Froelich), *P. implicita* (Horn), *P. lanceolata* (Say), *P. longitarsa* (Say), *P. nitida* (LeConte), *P. rugosa* (Melsheimer), and *P. tristis* (Fabricius).

On 6 June 1984, 2 male *P. crassissima* (Blanchard) were collected by personnel of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture in a blacklight trap at Hankinson, Richland County, North Dakota. This represents the first record of *P. crassissima* for North Dakota.

Miner (1952) reported that *P. crassissima* was common throughout the prairie states of the midwest and southwest, with the principal range bounded by lines connecting Nebraska, Indiana, and Texas.

Kirk and Balsbaugh (1975) recorded *P. crassissima* from several counties in southern South Dakota. Records also exist for southern Minnesota. However, the North Dakota record represents a northern range extension of approximately 192 km. Voucher specimens have been deposited in the North Dakota State University insect collection.

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SOCIETY MEETING OF NOVEMBER 18, 1987

The European corn borer, *Ostrinia nubilalis,* became established in the United States during the second decade of this century and is now present in all but a few western states. Control of the corn borer is a major concern of Dr. Charles E. Mason, former president of the Society and currently Associate Professor of Entomology at the University of Delaware. Dr. Mason spoke at the November Society Meeting on "Interactions of the European Corn Borer with some of its Parasites." Fourteen members and four guests attended the meeting held at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

The primary focus of Dr. Mason's talk was *Lydella thompsoni.* This tachinid fly parasitizes the larvae of the corn borer. After its introduction to this country from southern Europe by the USDA, it quickly spread and was a significant factor in biological control of the corn borer. Surveys of corn borer larvae in Maryland in the late 1940's showed state averages of up to 28% of them parasitized by *L. thompsoni.* Curiously, populations of *L. thompsoni* later declined and the species apparently became extinct in the U.S. The last specimen was collected from Nebraska in 1965. In the mid-1970's new stocks of *L. thompsoni* imported from Yugoslavia were released by the University of Delaware and the USDA in southern Delaware. The parasite has become reestablished and is spreading at about 35 miles per year. This year it was reported from North Carolina, Ohio, New York, and all the states in between. Rates of parasitism are lower than with the previous strain (4 to 13% in Delaware); however, its natural movement into other states is encouraging. In addition to monitoring the spread of this parasite, Dr. Mason has been studying alternate hosts which must be present to sustain the first annual generation which emerges before the larvae of the first generation of corn borers are available. One of these alternate hosts is the stalk borer, *Papaipema nebris,* another pest which feeds on early growing corn and weeds. The parasitism in this host was over 35% by *Lydella thompsoni.*

In notes of local entomological interest, Mildred Morgan, the Society's office secretary, reported that she had participated in a New Jersey Audubon Society trip to Cape May Point, New Jersey to tag Monarch butterflies. While there were relatively few Monarchs present at that time in late September, many more were present in the second week of October when Dr. Kenneth Frank was there. Both noted that the Buckeye, *Junonia coenia,* and the Cloudless Sulphur, *Phoebis sennae,* were abundant. Dr. Frank also displayed many issues of *Butterfly News,* a British newspaper sponsored by the butterfly farm industry. Dr. Mason reported that *Varroa jacobsoni,* a major mite pest of honey bees, has been discovered in several states this year including Pennsylvania.

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